KIOWA BEDTIME STORIES
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Introduction

It takes only a starlit evening to bring to mind our favorite stories. Our imaginations take us back to times when Kiowas sat around open fires on summer nights, or in tipis on cold nights. These were the nights that Grandpa and Grandma gave character to the animals of everyday life.

The stories in this book are real Kiowa stories retold by Mr. Louis Toyebo of Carnegie, Okla.

We have written the stories in both Kiowa and English. Anybody who reads English can read Kiowa by following the Reading Guide on page 1.

We hope that all of our people will want to learn to read Kiowa, since Kiowa tells these stories much better than English does.
Reading Guide for Kiowa

Kiowa has six vowels which are pronounced in the following way:

aw - as in English "saw", Kiowa haw "yes".

ow - as in English "low", Kiowa tow "house".

oo - as in English "boot", Kiowa koot "book".

ee - as in English "see", Kiowa kee "meat".

ay - as in English "day", Kiowa today "show".

ah - as in English "ah", Kiowa ahdaw "tree".

Following y "a" is pronounced like the vowel of English "cat", as in Kiowa gyah-paw "it's cheap", and in fast syllables at the end of a phrase sounds like the vowel in English "yet", Kiowa khowgyah "black".

An underlined vowel is spoken through the nose, as in hawnay "no".

Kiowa has some consonants that are not pronounced like English ones.

p, t, k, are pronounced without air as in pahgaw "one". ph, th, kh, are pronounced with air, as in pheedaw "fire".

p', t', k' are pronounced with a popping sound as in p'aw "firewood", t'aw "spoon", k'ee "firewood".

An apostrophe (') is pronounced by holding your breath between two parts of a word, as in Kiowa how'awn "road".

The letter l is pronounced like dl, as in English "cradle", Kiowa bayl-phawk'ee "white man". At the end of the phrase it may sound like the half whispered tl, as in English "cattle", Kiowa gyah-kowdow-sal "it is hot".
THAHLEE GAW AH THAHKYOWY
THE BOY AND HIS GRANDMOTHER

hahdayl gyah dawmay ah keeday gaw gyah haym awm
once upon a time they were camping and they
dayhayl. thahlee gaw ah thahkyowy ay keeday
face starvation. boy and his grandmother they were

naw thahlee ah thahkyowy tayl hayl
camping. and boy his grandmother told her.

peeyaw ah baht'aw gyah t'aw kaw taw gaw peeyaw bah
on the hill I'll go to use power and on hill he
hayl gaw aym dawp'ahyday hayl gaw ayday tsaw gyah
went and he sang and this what he
daw khawm hayl.
sang.

yah hay yah hay hay hay hay hay hay
haw t'aw khow gya' p'hawy tsayp naw thahkyowy day thahowl
black spoon I lost and grandma me whip
naw khowm dow bah t'aw aw' k'aw tsay a 'ow
and next to tent wall I mad and cry laid that's when
day daw awm guoh naw taykhow yaw t'ahp baw
I became a medicine man. and from all directions
day hayl gaw tow hyow' taw khasday hayl naw
deer came and camp throughout they scattered and
ayt tay ayt howl hayl gaw gyah goom awm day hayl.
many they killed and they plenty had.

THE BOY AND HIS GRANDMOTHER

Once upon a time alot of people were camping
and they faced starvation. A boy and his grand-
mother were camping (alone). The boy told his
grandmother, "I am going on the hill to use power", and
to the hill he went. On the hill he sang, and
this is what he sang:

"yah hay yah hay hay hay, yah hay hay hay hay hay hay"

The boy said, "I lost the black spoon and grand-
mother whipped me. I layed down next to the tent wall
and cried because I was mad. This is when I became a
medicine man. The deer came from all directions and
scattered throughout the camp. The people killed the
deer and then they had plenty to eat."
hahgyan gyah dawmay khawlayk'yahlay mah thow
once upon a time frog lady water's
aw'khawn bay anday gyah ahy phah
edge by she was sitting they cottonwood
gyah k'eeah dawmay. ay aheetay aym hahlyah
trees were growing. her baby he jumping
goon goo yee ah tawday t'awawn thah hayl gaw
here and there his mother cute she thought and
aym dawpahy dayhayl aheetay ahn daw khawmay, gaw
she sang a song her baby she sang about and
thowmay gaw hawnday hah'p'ay gaw aym hahlyah
she said ain't he cute and he jumping
Mrs. Frog and Her Baby Frog

Once upon a time a lady frog was sitting by the water's edge where cotton wood trees were growing. Her baby frog was jumping here and there. His mother thought he was cute so she sang a song about her baby. "Ain't he cute jumping along beneath the cotton wood trees on the damp ground. The rough-neck is making tracks with his heels. Isn't he rough and cute?"
saynday naw paysahn
Saynday and the Quail
hahdayl gyah dawmay k'aw bow'tay saynday
Once upon a time on river bank Saynday
haw awn tahy ah hayl naw t'aw gyah paysahn ah day
road on coming and in front quail was sitting
naw saynday paysahn tash hayl haw towm ahn bay
and Saynday quail ask him is it so you people
keehowlay hayt ay keehow naw paysahn tow nay hangy
scare you me scare and quail said no
naw saynday khowdow saw aw day hayl gaw thow phawn
and Saynday very mad and call him
hayl gaw aym awy 'awzawn hayl naw paysahn
names and he again started and quail
aym phee howt keepay hayl gaw haw awn bahbah
he flew up and road beside
aym t'awm maw hayl naw saynday haw awn thahy
he hid and Saynday road on
ah hayl gaw aym saymdaw tawyee naw paysahn
came and he was whistling and quail

khowday day aym phee howt khee pay hayl naw saynday
all at once he flew up and Saynday

aym tsowy goon hayl gaw k'awy 'aw tay hayl gaw
he frightened from and cliff fell and

thowgyah kowbay hayl
water in fell.

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SAYNDAY AND THE QUAIL

Once upon a time Saynday was coming along the river bank. A quail was sitting in front of him. Saynday asked the quail, "Is it so that you scare people? Will you scare me?" The quail said, "No". Saynday became very mad and called him names. He started on again. The quail flew up and hid beside the road. Saynday was coming along the road and whistling. All at once the quail flew up and frightened Saynday. He fell off the cliff and into the water.
PAAY GAW SAYNDAY

hah dayl gyah dawmay paay ahdeem pec towyee gaw hawnday
once upon a time turkey in the woods eating along

bow hayl gaw phaw hayl gaw gyahawy bow hayl
he saw and he stop and he again look

naw saynday dawmay gaw how awm thahy ah hayl
and Saynday (it was) and road on he was coming

gaw hahyah ahl gyah bow nay. gyah hawnday tah' pah
and everywhere he look he something looking for

naw paay 'awday ay bow tay gaw ay taay taw
and turkey thought he sees me and he will catch me
gaw ay howl taw  gaw ay sah' tsay taw
and he will kill me  and he will roast me

and he will eat me up  and he got scared

and didn't know what to do  and said

where I'll go to.  I burned stump of a tree

'awm taw.  gaw payday phaw hayl  gaw aym towbay hayl.
be  and straight stood  and he kept still

and Saynday toward he look  and saw him

and said  it is something burned stump of tree it is

he said and went on  behind the tree he went
phaw hayl gaw townay paay naw hayndaw
he stop and said turkey it is I think
gaw kowyday hayl gaw hawn paay thaw maw hayl
and turn back and didn't turkey find
gaw ah gool khaw daw ahl hawn ay thaw maw hayl.
and burned stump of a tree also didn't he find

Saynday and the Turkey

Once upon a time there was a turkey in the woods eating as he went along. And he saw something that make him stop. He looked again, and saw that it was Saynday coming down the road, looking all around for something. Then the turkey thought, "If he sees me he will catch me, and then roast me and eat me up."

The turkey got so scared he didn't know what to do, and said, "What will I do? I know—I'll play like I'm a burnt tree stump."

So he stood straight and still. And when Saynday looked and saw him, he said, "What is that? Oh, its a burnt tree stump." And he went on. Then the turkey ran for cover behind the tree. Then Saynday stopped and said, "I think I saw a turkey." So he turned back, but he didn't find a turkey. And he didn't find a burnt tree stump either.
Saynday Gaw Awhahday

Saynday and the Bear

Hah dayl gyah dawmey Saynday ah hayl gaw
once upon a time Saynday coming along the way

ahlawgaw aythaw hayl gaw pah aypawl hayl gaw tonay
plums he found and some he ate and said

ay mawye gyahty gawl hahgyah tsow daythawtaw
they are sour. some where else I'll find some
townay gaw aym awzown hayl gaw hawnkawl aythawmaw hayl
he said and he went on and none he found
and said I'll turn back and the ones I found and
daysayl t'aw awayhaw tsaun hayl naw ahlaw gaw haygyah dayway
pick them. there he came to and plum not there
dawmgyah gyah bow hayl naw awhahday ahn awndaw may
on the ground he look and bear he track saw
naw kowdow saw awday hayl gaw townay maw khawy owgaw
and really got mad. and said with his flat nose
yahl aym bow gaw haygaw aym owbowy howl naw awhahday
wish I could see and just you beat up and bear
t'aw hayl gaw aym hah hayl gaw townay hahtsow aym towgyah
heard it and he got up and said what did you say
naw Saynday kheethah hayl gaw townay ah 'owbowy
and Saynday got scared and said oh, I it to be
yahy towngyah gaw p'aythah hayl.
playful said and he laugh
Seynday and the Bear

Once upon a time, as Seynday was coming along the way, he found some plums. He ate some of them and said, "They are sour!"

"I'll find some somewhere else," he said, as he went on. But he didn't find any, and he said "I'll go back and pick the ones I found." When he got back to the place, the plums were gone. He looked down, and when he saw the bear track, he really got mad!

He said, "I wish I could see you so I could beat you up." The bear heard it. He got up and said, "What did you say?" Seynday got scared, and said laughingly, "I just said it to be playful."